

Press Release

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Statewide Plan Seeks to Improve Historic Preservation

Maryland Historical Trust Requests Input on Draft PreserveMaryland

CROWNSVILLE, MD – While most Marylanders would agree that the state is rich in cultural heritage and historic places, the people responsible for preservation efforts statewide find there is much work to do in accessing state support, cataloguing their work and getting the word out.

Those are among the several issues Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) staff compiled as part of PreserveMaryland, a comprehensive look at the state of historic preservation in Maryland. Required every five years, the plan looks at the field's strengths and weaknesses and recommends a slew of strategies to raise the preservation bar. The plan was informed by months of outreach to historic preservationists, museum professionals, archaeologists, history buffs and anyone interested in Maryland's heritage.

Learn more about PreserveMaryland and offer comments on the draft at <http://mht.maryland.gov/plan.html>. MHT staff will finalize the draft in November and send it to the National Park Service.

Survey responders and forum participants expressed concerns about the perception of historic preservation in Maryland, citing a need to reach out to constituents with educational opportunities and positive messages. They also said it was challenging to navigate the regulatory process and suggested that government entities find ways to make saving historic places easier.

PreserveMaryland calls upon state agencies and commissions, local governments, private organizations and individuals involved in preservation to improve upon Maryland's current commitment through five key goals:

- Connect with Broader Audiences;
- Improve the Framework for Preservation;
- Expand and Update Documentation;
- Build Capacity and Strengthen Networks; and
- Collaborate Toward Shared Objectives

For each goal, plan authors developed a series of action steps, many culled from a series of listening sessions and survey responses. PreserveMaryland envisions a one-three year timeframe for most actions, while a few key long-term recommendations will take place within five years.

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Trust assists the

people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is a division of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

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